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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 847
By Kerr

A RESOLUTION relative to the development of a Sister-State
Relationship between the Kaluga Region of
Russia and the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, Russia is a country rich in history, culture, and tradition, with a population of about 150 million persons; and

WHEREAS, it has the largest land area of any country in the world and for several decades was the leading country of the Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, Russians and Americans were allies during World War II and were successful in defeating Nazi aggression in a war that claimed the lives of thousands of men and women from each country; and

WHEREAS, 40 years of diverging political and competing military programs between the communist Soviet government and the democratic United States government came to an end when the leaders of the Soviet Union chose to dissolve the country and allow each former member country to pursue democratic self-rule; and

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WHEREAS, the Russian people have enthusiastically embraced democracy and the transformation of their country's economy from a closed socialist system to an open free-market system; and

WHEREAS, conditions during the Cold-War Era caused Russian citizens and American citizens to be virtual strangers separated by geography, governments, culture, and language even though citizens of both countries have remarkable similarities and interests; and

WHEREAS, our mutual self-interests are well-served by encouraging citizens of both countries to become better acquainted with one another and to engage in mutually beneficial activities, particularly in educational systems, social and cultural programs, economic development, and governmental systems so as to help assure the successful growth of a democratic free-market society in Russia; and

WHEREAS, a delegation of leaders from the Kaluga Region of Russia visited Tennessee in 1998 and proposed the idea of a Sister-State relationship with Tennessee, and after several months of discussions a delegation from Tennessee visited the Kaluga Region in 1999, to develop a specific framework for a Sister-State program; and

WHEREAS, the Governors of both Kaluga and Tennessee have expressed their support for formal implementation of a Kaluga/Tennessee Sister-State program to pursue mutually beneficial goals; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby express our full support for the concept and pursuit of an official Kaluga/Tennessee Sister-State Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.